SKATE JAWN
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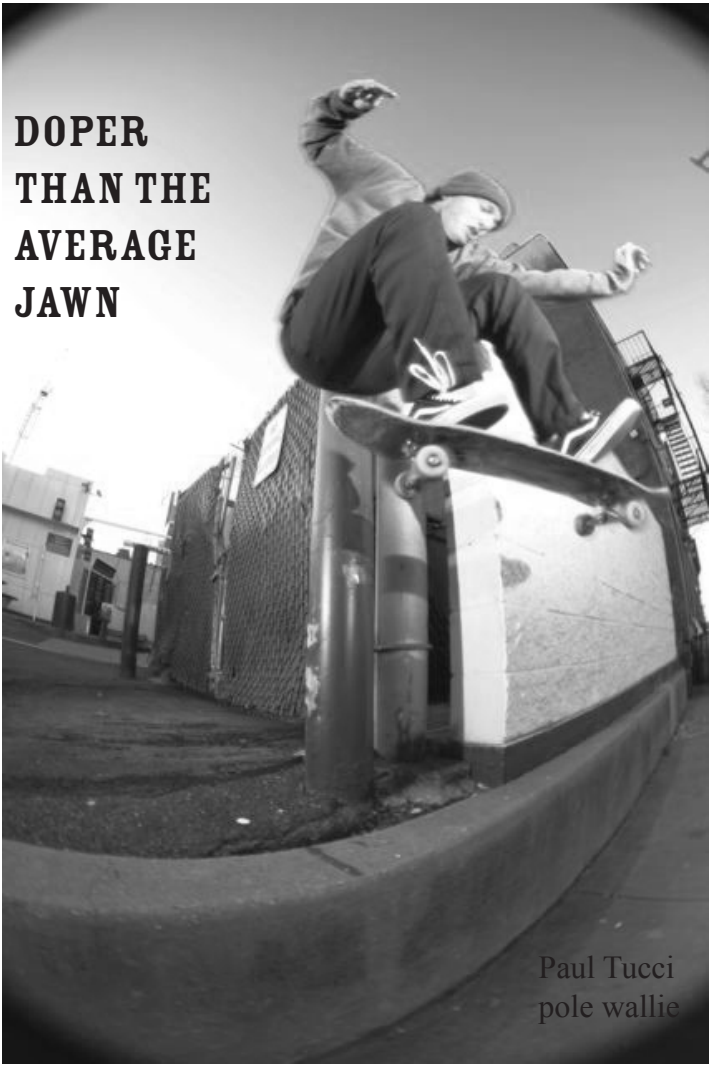

Dave Labbe Interview

Why can't my boyfriend wallride?

Euro jawn

Sam McKenna Interview

Campus Orientation: Drexel

East Coast Love

JOE
TOOKMANIAN

5BORONYC

Dave Labbe

Interview by Travis Storer Photos by Mike Harris and Sam Mckenna

What's up Dave so let's start with the basics, How old are you and how long have you been skating?
I'm 22 and I have been skating for about a decade.

That's cool how did you get into skating?
My neighbour had an old banana board, and his driveway had a hill we used to bomb. That lasted for an entire summer before I got a real board.

Nice you started the right way, just finding a board and bombing hills with it unlike nowadays, most people see skating on tv or video games. Are you from Portland or are you down here for a different reason?
I was born in Worcester, Mass but I grew up in Waterville, Maine. I moved down to Portland just to get away and start fresh. Not to mention the best skating in Maine takes place here.

You got that right. So you're just chilling in Portland skating crusty Maine spots just livin' the life huh?
I went to school for a couple years but wasn't feelin' it. I would much rather work full time and just shred while I'm young.

That's cool man, you seem to have an old school skate soul to yourself. Going fast and pushing through anything. What inspires your skating?
I love looking for new spots and spots that people overlook. I think what keeps me motivated is knowing that there are spots everywhere that haven't been touched and I look forward to finding a trick for them, but above all that a good crew and a cold brew are a must!

Who do you usually skate with?
I would say I skate now with Alex Winslow the most as of recent. A bunch of homies just moved out to Colorado and to Texas so the scene isn't as thick as it once was but we still have a good crew...Matt Seavy, Ben Cironi, Mike G, Charlie Flowers, Kelsey Markee, Dave Green and the list goes on for days.

So *Maine and Simple* **should be dropping anytime now and you'll be having a part in that. Do you plan on working on the Maine Skateboarding video? You were the first person I thought of when I decided to make a video for the site.**
Yeah man I would love to film a part in that! I have a huge list of clips I want to get, we just need to make it happen!

Well I'm down whenever you are! Thanks for doing this interview for Skate Jawn, would you like to thank anyone or give any shout outs to the homies?
Thanks to Skate Jawn and Travis Storer for hooking up the interview. Thanks to Ride 207 and Maine Skateboarding for helping the scene grow. Sam Mckenna and Jimmy Collins for shooting the photos and thanks to all the people who are skating to have a good time because that's what it's all about.

Mike G.

Front Crook to Fakie

Photo: Sam McKenna

www.minionboards.com

Nate Pezzillo, bs lip
p: Billy Cox

p: Blair Kemp

Kyle O'Neill

WWW.SKATEJAWN.COM

p: Jordan Hemingway

After a balanced breakfast Darin hits the streets p: CJ Harker

Javon Lang

James Pitonyak

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Conor Prunty

photos: Dom Newell

On the east coast our picnic tables are made for men, and only men can grind them. Kozo nosegind.

Why can't my boyfriend wallride?

Not long ago, I awoke from the shred zone to realize I had just been throwing myself at a wall at speed for the past hour. I'm gonna get em someday, but still wallrides are eluding me. I have always wanted to do that move, but I never really tried to learn them with any conviction before. Why had I suddenly chosen this night and this spot to learn them? Why do we learn certain moves? How do we choose which moves to learn? How come some people never learn frontside fifties on tranny, but on a ledge it's the most basic maneuver? How come some people never learn hardflips?

Recently, a girl led me on pretty hard and dropped me for a dude who happens to have wallrides nollie out.

I know shit happens, get over it. But still, my little heart got pretty broke, and you know as well as I do that when you feel like shit the best thing to do is go skating, and suddenly I'm trying to learn wallrides. Funny timing huh?

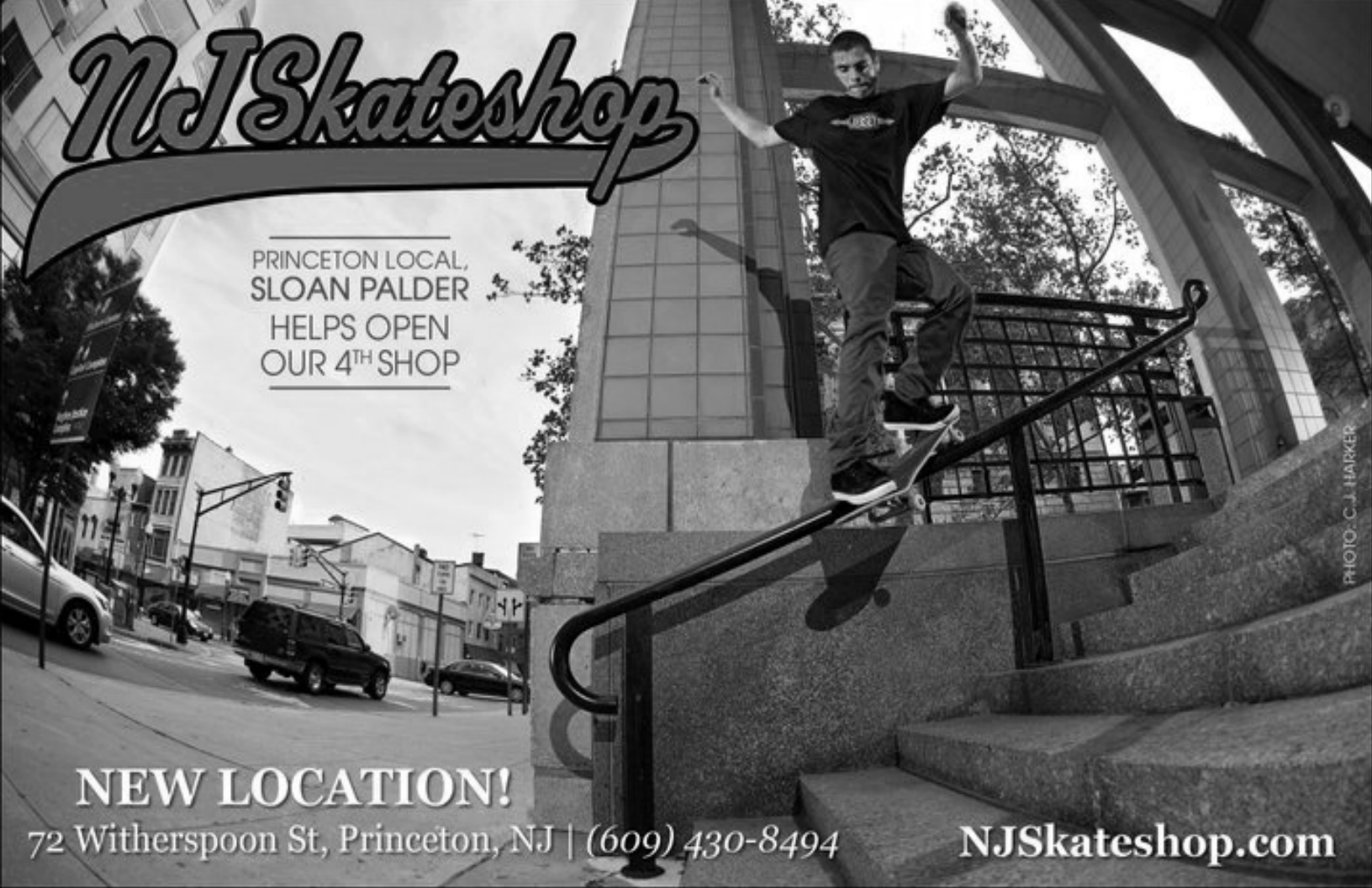
It occurred to me that I might be trying to learn wallrides not because Natas is rad, or so that when someone asks what I did last night I could say, "learning to ride on walls." As epic as that sounds. I mean those are reasons that are true, but I personally think I wanted to learn them so I could prove to myself this dude I got dropped for isn't better than me. "If I can do wallrides too, it must mean that it wasn't my fault I got dropped by this girl, right?" How fucking pathetic is that? I wanted definitive proof that I'm as good as this dude at life in general, so I went skateboarding. Obviously I'm lacking something as a human being, but I don't know what it is or how to fix it, so I'll try to learn wallrides. So weak, dude!

I know wallrides have nothing to do with my romantic life, but I feel like they symbolize something about it. Why do we learn the moves we do? What separates you and me, reading this homemade zine, from the soul boarder kid with a longboard he/she got from PacSun? I feel like I'm a "real" skater and that kid is a "fake" or to use a 90's word, a poser. And I feel like that notion is justified for some reason that, when I try to pin it down, makes no sense. Are we "real" skaters because we have some truer notion of fun or skating than those kids who haven't paid their dues? The PacSun kid is arguably having as much if not more fun that me, breaking myself against the wall 'cause I think wallrides are cool.

Learning wallrides isn't a happy time, it doesn't feel good. It's about exorcising demons for me. Why does that make me more of a skater than Longboard Kid? Because that kid hasn't put in the blood sweat and tears I have? Maybe that kid is a natural and can do wallrides first try, I don't know. Maybe he/she can have a good time doing it too. So it's not about having a more pure fun or paying your dues. As I write this from inside my place of work I see kids with puffy cupsoles push mongo past the window. Who's the real skater now? I'm here, thinking about skating, single, while kids are out there actually rolling around and engaging in romantic liaisons that last longer than one night. Awesome. 413 baby!

Love, Toro

P.S. After writing this article Toro finally did a wallride.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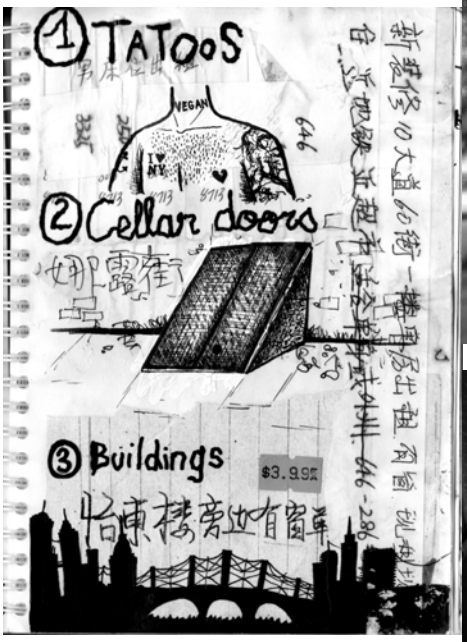
SKATE JAWN EURO JAWN

Philadelphia doesn't strike me as a particularly international city but for 10 gnarly days in late August this all changed. In late August the Fortress of Soul-itude, hosted two Spaniards and three Frenchies which is what I've got to assume is the entire European population of Philly.
The two Spaniards were Madrid's Juan "Jura" Algora, and soul filmer Felix Bolain de Francesci both repping Welcome Skateshop.

Jura was got broke off skating before the trip and was laid up with a gnarly injury. He ended up chilling and quoting Gucci Man most the time. Burr!

This same week 3 French homies, Arthur Chiron, Fabien Chaigne, and Romain Batard were all coming to Philly and ended up staying at the fortress. Romain made a really sick video called Frame by Frame, with parts from Arthur, and Prize Fighter's Leo Valls. We skated around and had fun the whole time and even learned a few things.



Things I learned from the Europeans:
1. One forty can sometimes satisfy 3 Frenchies
2. In Europe you pick up girls by them and loudly saying, “PSSSSSSSST” (this was taken up by all homies and by the last day no girl could walk by without a barrage PSSSST’s)
3. DJ Fabien can spin some jams
4. French people are unbelievably good scrap bookers.
5. Jura likes himself a thick black ass.
6. Johnny Hallyday is the most badass Frenchman to ever live.
7. French people are known to ride two to a skateboard
8. Very little Spanish and even less French. Fils de pute!

GOOSE
ODKA

Things the French Learned from us:
1. The concept of cheesiness. Despite being famous for cheese they had no idea of cheesiness.
2. The word filthy, as in Philadelphia is filthy.
3. You can fit 6 men into one small cab.
4. Don't drink the 40's in the streets.
5. I say dude way too much.

Things the Spaniards Learned:
1. Being under 21 in the states fucking sucks.
2. Rick Ross isn't actually gangster.
3. Probably not too much.

Photo: Chris Carbough
benford lepley
www.seagleskate.com

MITCHELL WILSON

Where are you from?
Florida

Where do you go to school?
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

What the heck brought you out to Philadelphia?
I wanted to go to the nearest city to skateboard. I like skateboarding and hanging out with my friends.

Why do you never call back chicks?
Cause after I have it I'm done.

What happened that time OG punched you in the face?
I'm here alone one night, and I look out the window and OG is trying to break into my car. So I go out and confront him and he says it was someone else. I say I don't believe him and get in the car to move it, and he reached in and punched me in the face as I drove away. It was the first time I ever got punched in the face.

Where do you see your skating going?
Nowhere
What do you see yourself doing in 5 years?
Still skating, but with nothing.
What are some of your favorite spots to skate?
FDR, pops, and Cecil, and the barrier. Can we stop please? I'm way too high now.

Philly barrier. under the bridge at poplar and nineth

HHHEEEEEELLLPPP!!!
SKATEBOARD KIDS TIED
ME UP!!!

Totally Nector

Sam McKenna interview

by Travis Storer

How long have you been skating and how did you start?

I got my first board when I was pretty young and just kind of rode around on it for a little while but didn't really get into it until about 4 or 5 years ago. Now I skate everyday I can, for as long as I can, and I don't plan on stopping until I die.

So have you always had an interest in photography or did skateboarding get you on to it?

Once I got into skating I started reading skate mags and always loved looking at the photos and thought it would be so much fun to shoot photos of my friends skating. I saved up all my money and bought a camera with no knowledge of photography at all, and just taught myself how to shoot photos and studied magazines to try and get better.

What do you have in your camera bag?

I have a canon rebel xsi with a few different lenses and three flashes I mostly shoot 50mm but have been borrowing a fisheye from a friend the past couple weeks. I'm trying to save up some money now to buy a fisheye of my own.

Who do you usually go out shooting with?

I shoot a lot with Dave Labbe, Mike Gustafson, P-Vann Phum, Garrett Brooks, Dave Green, Jay Brown pretty much any of the Portland locals. I just bring my camera with me when I skate everyday and pretty much shoot whatever tricks go down.

What projects do you have going on right now?

Right now I'm working on a couple different interviews for the Maine Skateboarding website and I recently finished working on Mike Gustafson's interview that was featured in the second issue of Skate Jawn.

Are you only working on photography stuff, or filming for videos/skating in them?
Right now I'm filming a part for a video out of NH called "Straight Out of Conway" and after that I plan on filming for the Maine Skateboarding Vid.

So you're a senior this year in Portland are you thinking about going to a city that could help out your skate photography?
I'm really trying to go to school down in NYC and see where I can go with photography. I can't think of anything else I would want to do more.

So after you go to school will you still be coming back to shoot in Maine? Would you say you're going somewhere metropolitan to get into the skateboarding industry?
I don't really see myself moving back to Maine I would like to stay in NYC but I'll see what happens

Thanks for taking the time and doing this for Skate Jawn is there anyone you would like to thank?
I would like to thank anyone who has supported my photography especially Travis Storer for backing me on the Maine Skateboarding page. I would also like to thank all the Portland locals for the support and the good times skating.

photo: zahradnik

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Tim Lelen

CAMPUS ORIENTATION: DREXEL

by CJ Lambert

There's not much to be said about the Drexel skate scene. It's pretty small. I came to Drexel three years ago, and the only other skater I knew was Brian Dolle. We skated around campus almost everyday, and saw many skaters from throughout the city come to skate some of the more well known spots. The next year, there were a few more skaters and the year after that, even more! We also made friends with people at neighboring schools and they joined us in our frequent sessions.

There's a huge flat gap not far from the 7-11 on campus. Here's Ben killing it! Photo: Eric F

If you ask anyone at Drexel about skateboarding, even non-skaters, they will probably mention Race Street. Tim, an engineering student at Drexel, is seen here kickflipping the perfect flat gap that used to be found on the closed off section of the street.

Our friend Dave Pollen built a mini ramp in his dorm after becoming frustrated with the lack of transition at Drexel…

East Coast Love

Jersey barriers

One of the most versatile of all obstacles. Grind em, slide em, ride em. Go up and over even. Do you. They're just about everywhere you look. Check under your local bridge or construction site. Plus they're named after New Jersey. Jersey Love

Philly Love

In no other city have I seen so much hair in the streets. Watch out playing around here, running over some tumbling tumble weave and getting extensions caught in yr bearing, can end a sesh real quick, but we still got love for these streets.

Skateboarding on the internet!!!

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Thanks,
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photo: c.j. harker